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## The Falklands And The CIA

Bill Bonham is a former keyboardist for Procul Harem who is now part-owner of a recording studio in Santa Ana. Bill Bonham is also a former explosives expert with the special forces of the British Army. In 1974, he says, he was stationed in the Falkland Islands. Because of this, Bonham told the *Weekly*, he was visited two weeks ago by the CIA — and visited four days before the Argentine invasion of the islands. The CIA officers who came to see Bonham, he says, apparently knew the invasion was going to take place (as did the British, though they didn't act on the information), and wanted to parachute Bonham onto the island to pose as a native and to do intelligence and "explosives" work. If Bonham is telling the truth, then the incident raises the most significant questions. Why would the CIA be involved in anti-Argentine activities when the U.S. is officially neutral? Is the CIA helping its British buddies at their behest or on its own? Do the State Department and White House know about these activities? Is the U.S. government covertly helping the British while professing neutrality? Are there U.S. interests involved in the islands of which the public has not been inform-

ed? These questions are all speculation, of course, and the CIA was no help in answering them. A spokesman for the CIA office in L.A. said he would have "no comment one way or the other" about the veracity of the Bonham statement. Bonham, who is in his early 30s, says this is not the first time the CIA has approached him because of his record of special espionage missions for the British. During the Iranian crisis, he says, he was asked to accompany a British-appearing rock band on a tour intended to infiltrate agents into the country. The mission was cancelled when the Ayatollah banned rock music, he says. As for the current request, Bonham says he's willing to accept and so told the CIA folks who visited him, though they have not contacted him again. Why would the CIA want him? He spent nine months on the Falklands and is well known to the local British residents, he says, the islands being only a small community. Therefore he would not be suspected by the Argentines. Can this story be believed? Only the CIA knows for sure and it's not telling, though Bonham's associates clearly believe it. (It was they, not Bonham, who informed the *Weekly* about the reputed visit.)

—Gloria Ohland